



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor – Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor – S. Anthony McCann, Secretary

August 2, 2005

Dennis Smith
Director
Centers for Medicaid and State Operations
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Mail Stop S2-26-12
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am pleased to submit the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's CommunityChoice §1115 Waiver application. The CommunityChoice waiver application is the State's proposal to reform the Medicaid long term care system to promote home and community based services, improve quality of care, better coordinate services, and control growth in health care costs.

If approved, CommunityChoice would serve older adults and people with disabilities. The program would be mandatory for dual eligibles and other individuals in need of long term care services. The CommunityChoice program would include primary, acute, and long term care services. While integration of Medicare funding for dual eligibles is a goal of the program, participation in Medicare Advantage plans by dual eligibles would remain voluntary.

The Department developed this managed long term care proposal in collaboration with the Maryland Departments of Disabilities, Aging, and Human Resources, and with extensive input from many stakeholders. We have been meeting with consumers, advocates, providers, and legislators to discuss this proposal for more than a year. We have conducted large stakeholder forums and regional public hearings, and have convened a CommunityChoice Advisory Group and six subcommittees. This proposal conforms to the requirements of Senate Bill 819 of the 2004 Maryland General Assembly Session (Health-General §15-141).

If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to call me at (410) 767-6505 or Tricia Roddy, Director of Planning, at (410) 767-5809.

Sincerely,

S. Anthony McCann
Secretary